

Annual Newsletter 2024

Association of Friends of Fermanagh County Museum



"Morrigan Crow" by Anthony Scott



Enniskillen in Lockdown by Frank Britton



"Stay at Home" by Cheryl Brown, with Emily & Emily-Rose, a couple of the contributors

2024: Looking back on the very recent past

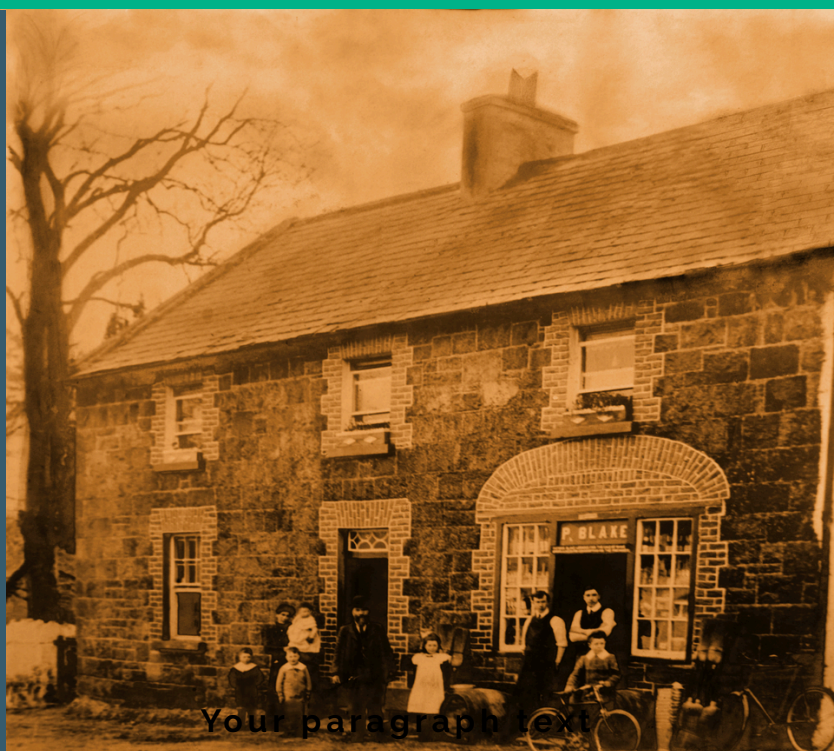
A key exhibition in our 2024 programme involved looking back just four years ago in 'Creative Reflections on 2020'. The exhibition included sculptures and photography by Cheryl Brown, Philip Lauterbach and Anthony Scott, charting their three different responses to the covid-19 lockdown. Also on show were a series of photographs of Enniskillen in 2020 by Frank Britton, and a collection of drawings by NHS staff.

Museums reflect and collect the present for future generations, as well as preserving the past from centuries ago. One of the items accessioned into our collections in 2024 was a bottle of hand sanitiser made locally by the Boatyard Distillery on 6 April 2020.

Looking back on 140 years

"Distilling the Decades. The Blake Family Archive" was a wonderfully engaging exhibition tracing back over 140 years, starting in 1880 with a grocer's shop on Chapel Street, Derrylin, up to the Blake's businesses today.

The exhibition was a compelling exploration of a family's enduring legacy and its impact on the local community and beyond. The evolution of the family business was told through the display of several hundred documents, photographs and memorabilia, many of which had been lovingly preserved by previous generations in shoeboxes, under beds and on top of wardrobes.



Blake's family home, Main Street, Derrylin, c.1910

- "Remembering the Showbands" with Philip Darcy
- "Creative Reflections on 2020: Cheryl Brown, Philip Lauterbach and Anthony Scott"
- "Distilling the Decades: The Blake Family Archive"
- "Our Townlands, Our Place: Textile interpretation of our local landscape"
- "William Scott (1913-1989): From Life to Art"
- "Catharsis: An Eclectic Mix of Boxed Assemblages by Scott Ramsey"



Artist, Scott Ramsey, holding his work, "Catharsis"



Cardwell McClure donating his Scott family history research



Robert Scott, son of the artist, appropriately the first person to utilise the newly launched William Scott Room



Extraordinary Donation: The William Scott Enniskillen Archive



Delighted that members of the Scott family were able to attend the exhibition & archive launch. Seen here with them is the then Chair of Fermanagh & Omagh District Council, Councillor John McClaghry

2024 marked the 100th anniversary of the young William Scott moving to his father's hometown of Enniskillen. The anniversary provided an opportunity to showcase our internationally significant collection of works of art by William Scott. These were displayed alongside examples from the recently donated archive of the artist's books, catalogues and art materials as well as the actual domestic objects represented in his painting. The inspirational archive was the extraordinary gift of the Estate of William Scott to Fermanagh. The "William Scott (1913-1989): From Life to Art" exhibition was also visited by the

artist's nephew, Cardwell McClure. Cardwell further extended the archive by generously giving the Museum his extensive research material from his publication, "William Scott. A Family History".



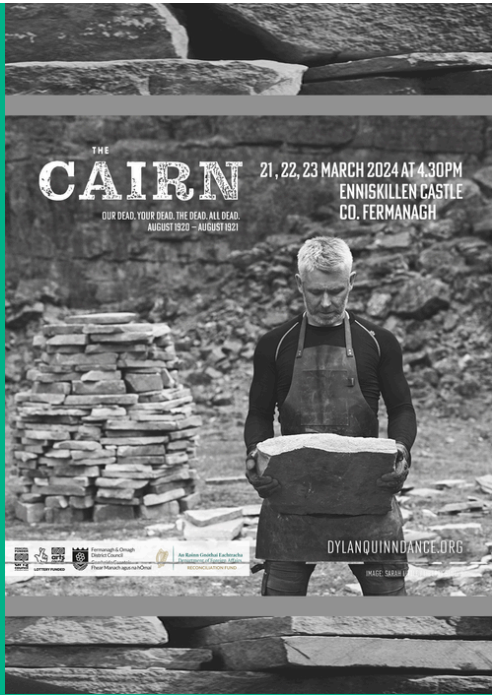
Museum Accreditation Award given by Johnathan Dalzell and Eva Lynch of the Northern Ireland Museums Council

The exhibition provided the backdrop for Fermanagh County Museum once again being awarded full Museum Accreditation Status. The national award recognises the museum's commitment to effective governance, exemplary collections care and a high-quality visitor experience.

An exceptional year for visitors and events

In addition to our ongoing annual activities, the public programme at Enniskillen Castle included:

- Wilde Dining Feast over Fire x 2 (Hosted)
- Fostering Network NI Information Event x 2 (Hosted)
- South East Fermanagh Foundation's "The Northern Ireland Troubles...A Tribute to Innocents (Hosted)
- Stained Glass Taster Day with the Construction Industry Training Board NI
- "The Cairn" with Dylan Quinn
- Easter Clay Modelling Workshops (Hosted)
- Lough Erne Pilgrim Way Art Workshop with Caroline Dilworth of Les Papillons
- Meet the Funder: National Lottery Heritage Fund (Hosted)
- "Embracing Change: Thriving through Menopause" with the Aisling Centre (Hosted)
- Enniskillen International Market (Hosted)
- Enniskillen Modern Tyres 10K with Enniskillen Running Club (Hosted)
- Chapterhouse Theatre's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Beauty and the Beast" and "Little Women"
- BBC Comes to Town (Hosted)
- Fermanagh Pride (Hosted)
- Lough Erne Pilgrim Way Care and Conservation of Historic Graveyards Workshop
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council Capital Grant Workshop (Hosted)
- Northern Ireland during the Second World War with the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum (Hosted)
- Bank of England Citizens' Panel (Hosted)
- Ulster Society of Women Artists Plein Air Painting Weekend (Hosted)
- Lough Erne Landscape Partnership's Lough Erne Heritage Festival (Hosted)
- William Scott(s) Walking Tour of Enniskillen part of Fermanagh Live
- Tales from the Vaults for Halloween
- Farmer's Market and Christmas Farmer's Market (Hosted)
- Dromore Choir Christmas Carols (Hosted)
- "See You on the Other Side: Writing my Novel in Tribute to The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers" with author Kerry Whelan (Hosted)
- Acrylic Painting Workshop with Catherine Swan (Hosted)
- Enniskillen Castle Rollerskate with Glide & Groove (Hosted)



William Scott (s) Walking Tour of Enniskillen

Starts at Enniskillen Castle
Friday 4 October
10.30am - 12.30pm



ENNISKILLEN CASTLE

**FARMER'S
MARKET**

SATURDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 11AM - 4PM

Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Chontair
Fhear Manach agus na hOmaí

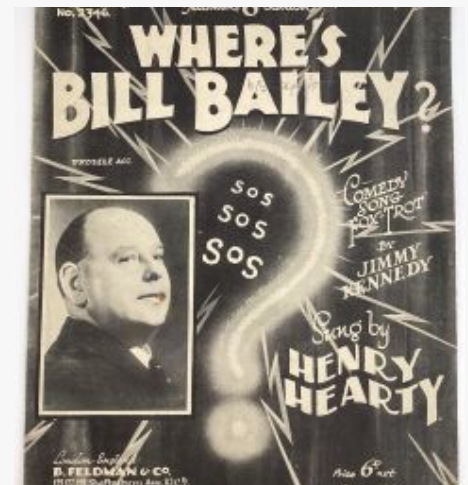
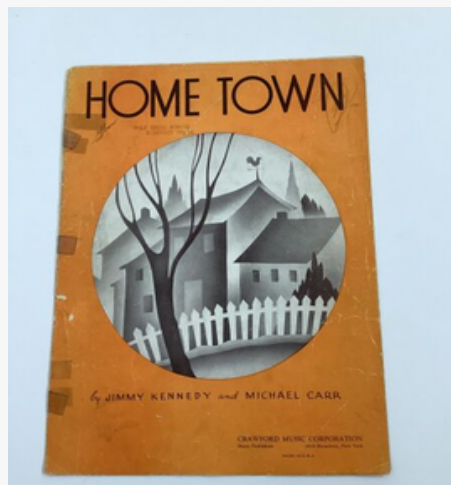
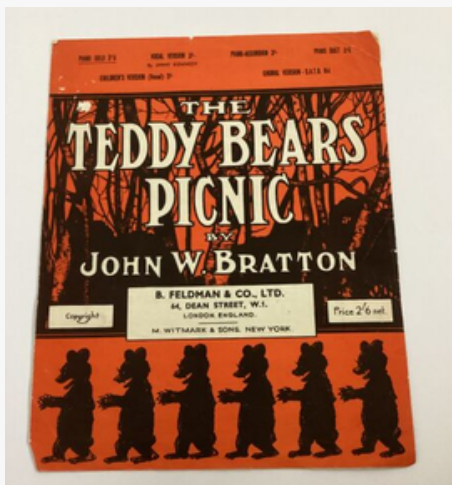
Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs



Hosted Event at Enniskillen Castle

Our collections are acquired, kept safe and explained through your support

In 2024, 307 artefacts were accessioned into our collections. Artefacts were given mainly through the generosity of individuals and Friends of Fermanagh County Museum. Material donated included a substantial collection of sheet music by celebrated songwriter James (Jimmy) Kennedy (1902-1984). Kennedy, originally from Omagh, Co. Tyrone, who famously wrote the words to the existing music for the "Teddy Bears' Picnic". The collection was kindly donated to Fermanagh & Omagh District Council by J.J. Tohill. The collection relates to the Museum's collecting scope to acquire and preserve artefacts relating to County Tyrone in addition to County Fermanagh. Our current collecting priorities can be seen online as part of the [Collections Management Framework](#). The Jimmy Kennedy collection is accessible online as a [theme](#), part of the growing digital access to our museum holdings. Another donation received was a collection of aerial views of Enniskillen taken by Colm McGuinness between 1991 to 1996 when the refurbishment of St Michael's Church was taking place. The photographs were donated to our collections via Frankie Roope.



Part of the Jimmy Kennedy Collection



Series of aerial views of Enniskillen taken by Colm McGuinness during the refurbishment of St Michael's Church in the first half of the 1990s

In summary...

In 2024, **90,661** people visited Enniskillen Castle; **6** exhibitions were opened; **5** talks were held; **7** trails were offered; **11** additional events organised; **24** public events hosted; **307** objects, documents & photographs were accessioned into our collections; **6,588** school children, students and adults participated in our education and outreach programmes.